

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is an annual offering collected by believers around the world to support international missions. The offering was officially named in 1918 by Women's Missionary Union in honor of the missionary to China who urged churches to start it and give sacrificially, Lottie Moon.

This offering is unique from other mission offerings in that 100% of gifts provide for missionaries all over the world. It is a valuable part of Southern Baptists' 175-year history of reaching the nations with the gospel and vital to reaching the vision of a multitude from every language, people, tribe and nation knowing and worshiping our Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 7:9).

November Giving

2019

Budgeted	\$165,371
Received	\$189,768

2020 (5 Sundays)

Budgeted	\$208,158
Received	\$100,000 (est.)

Ways to Give

- Text "Give" to (915)975-7300
- Online at fbcep.com
- First Baptist Church El Paso Mobile App
- Mail Gift to:
805 Montana Ave.
Attn: Finance
El Paso, TX 79902

Jesus' Birthday

by Martha Jackson, Minister of Preschool and Children

As I've thought recently about how the Children's Ministry will celebrate Christmas this year, I was reminded that the Christmas season gives each of us the opportunity to help our children fall in love with Jesus and understand that He is the reason for the season.

This year families will have fewer activities and events to attend. I suspect this means we will have more time for family traditions and celebrations in the home. I encourage you to involve your children in the fun of making cookies, decorating your home, setting up your nativity scene and wrapping gifts. As you dive into your family's traditions (or as you make new ones!), I encourage you to use the time to remind your children why we celebrate. Be intentional about pointing out Jesus to your kids no matter their age. Emanuel is a gift to us from God. That is the reason for our Christmas celebrations!

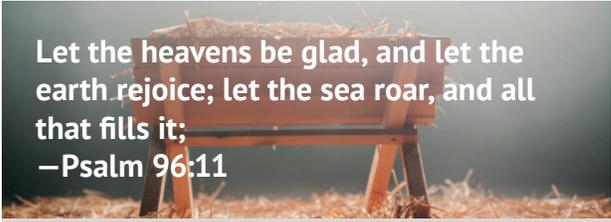
This year FBC Children's Ministry will celebrate our yearly birthday party for Jesus on Sunday, December 13th during our weekly Zoom Sunday School. Even if your child hasn't previously attended a Zoom session, I hope your family will connect that Sunday. More details will be available on our website.

Christmas will be different this year. May that difference be a blessing for you and your family.

Lastly, this season blesses us with many ways to show our love to others the way God commands us to do. I hope this Christmas your family will find ways to celebrate the gift of Jesus' birth by sharing God's love with others.



The Living Christmas Tree is going virtual this year! It will be streamed live once on Christmas Eve and twice on Christmas Day on our YouTube channel. This time honored tradition is special to our church family and community, and we look forward to spreading the love and the life of Jesus even further this Christmas season to our online community. Remember to watch and to share with your loved ones.



Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
—Psalm 96:11

New Members

Erick and Jordan Jimenez by letter.
Reta Cook by statement.

Congratulations

Brendan John Haynes

Grandparents: Chris and Jorie Licking
Parents: Jenny and Calvin Haynes

Sympathy

- The family of Bill Wickline.
- Larry Hogsed in the passing of his wife, Norma Hogsed.
- Nelda Parker in the passing of her husband, Charles Parker.
- The family of Alice West.

Holiday Missions Opportunities

www.fbcep.com/missions-opportunities

- CWJC Christmas Outreach
- Angel Tree
- B Warm Blanket Drive

From Milk to Meat

by Jeremy Kroeker, Minister of Youth

When we first went into shelter in place restrictions for COVID 19, I asked my wife Tara to buy a couple of jars of baby food for me when she went to get groceries. She gave me a puzzled look but went ahead and added it to her list.

First Peter 2:2-3 says, “Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.” It’s a word picture used to illustrate the importance of being hungry for growth in our walk with God. This imagery continues in other parts of the Bible, but the challenge is to grow from “milk” to “solid food.” Paul challenged the believers towards growth in 1 Corinthians 3:1-2 by telling them that they were “mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.” Similarly, the writer of Hebrews had some harsh words for Christians who were not making the effort to grow. He said this about them in Hebrews 5:12-14: “by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

I wanted to use the baby food that I asked Tara to buy me for a video illustration, but, 8 months later, the jars are still sitting in our cabinet unused. My goal was to encourage our students to use the time away from our normal Youth activities to get into the Bible and prayer on their own, and not rely solely on church or our Youth ministry to feed them. I never made the video, but my challenge remains.

Even though we’ve all created new routines over the past few months, this is still a great time to start new habits or set new priorities, especially in our personal time with God. Also, the New Year (quickly approaching) provides a chance for a fresh start for new goals. Daily time with God through prayer and Bible reading helps us grow from spiritual “milk,” being fed to us by church, to spiritual “meat,” or solid food, that we dig into on our own. To help with this, our Youth ministry delivers digital devotions each week to follow up our Sunday Bible study lessons, and our Student Leaders are trying their best to connect with their fellow students to encourage them to get into a devotional reading plan through the Bible app or other resources that the students can do together. (Side note: Our children’s ministry has also been sending resources to families in the mail each month that can be used as follow up devotions for the lessons they are learning in Sunday school.) Whether it’s these resources and suggestions, or just spending a moment praying each day, any step that you take to spend time with God on your own will help you draw near to Him and will help you grow into a more mature Christian.

Our Youth devotions can be accessed by subscribing to



our text updates (text “@fbcepyouth” to 81010), through our @fbcepyouth Instagram account, or by contacting me directly (jkroeker@fbcep.com or 915-203-1231). In addition to this, our 222 Youth Mentoring/Discipleship Program helps high school students get into God’s Word and prepares them to help others do the same. If you are interested in learning more about this, contact me any time.

Let’s all take steps of growth to move from “milk” to “meat”! ■

Women on Missions November Report

Out of an abundance of caution, the Women on Mission (WOM) Meeting scheduled for December 1, 2020, will take place through email.

Mission Service Project for December: Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, FBC goal \$20,000.

Pray for Missionaries Passage: Jonah 1:1-17

Jonah 1:3 says, “But Jonah ran away from the Lord.” Why would Jonah head in the opposite direction from the Lord? It looks as though Jonah’s hesitancy had to do with the people God wanted him to reach. Those Ninevites! Why would God want to save them? Jonah didn’t want any part of it.

Why would I start with such a passage to talk about pursuing God? Because it starts with self. We can relate to Jonah in that we have things in our hearts and lives that keep us from pursuing God fully.

Praying for the nations reveals our vulnerabilities, like prejudice. They may not come across in our public prayers, but when we’re alone with God, they can slip out before we know it. Ask the Holy Spirit to pick your heart this month to reveal any hidden sins or prejudices. We’re praying for missionaries to see the nations transformed. Don’t hesitate to get vulnerable before God as you join in this important task.

Prayer focus: Central Asian Peoples: Alisa is a single Muslim young woman in Central Asia who teaches her language to a believer. Although she’s and independent, working woman, she follows the conservative norms of Avar culture. Pray the relationship between Alisa and the believer would deepen and Alisa’s heart would receive the gospel.

Pray for North American Mission Board: Alabama: Joshua Isley, Nebraska: Spencer Parish, North Carolina: Sandra Johnson, Tennessee: Kinsey Galyon, Texas, Emma Aguilar Mejia, Jonathan Attaway, Virginia: Vasily Lopatin, International Mission Board, American Peoples, Mike Burghardt, East Asian Peoples, BG, European Peoples, Tracy Barth, BH, South Asian Peoples, ML, Southeast Asian Peoples, SC, SP, Sub-Saharan African Peoples, Nathan Schoen, Julius Tennal. Chaplains, Volunteers, State Convention Missionaries, Retired,

NAMB, Alice Cotton, Dan Duffy, Pam Jones, Linda Massey, Ruby Moore, Abdias Mora, Jim Murphy, Gisela Ponce de Horta, IMB: Danny Crawley, Kay Ellen Deckert, Jan Harvey, Myrtice Owens, Elaine Wilson.

Thank you for your amazing faithful mission ministry. Many people are blessed by your generosity.

—Martha Caldwell, Director, WMU, and Pat Murtland, WOM Facilitator